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ROLE OF GRAM PANCHAYAT AND VILLAGE WATER AND SANITATION COMMITTEE FOR THE SUCCESS OF SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMIN)

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Abstract-

“Sanitation is more important than independence”

-Mahatma Gandhi

Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2nd Oct 2014 by the Govt. of India which aims to achieve Swachh Bharat (Clean India) by 2019, as a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary. The Mission Coordinator shall be Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) with two Sub-Missions – the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). For the Implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) there have five tier of mechanism i.e. National/State/District/Block/Village level. Among this in the village level, Gram Panchayat & Village Water and Sanitation Committee play a vital role for the hygiene & sanitation of a rural area. In his regard it has become necessary to study about it in a systematic way.

The main objective of this paper is to study the Role of Gram Panchayat & Village Water and Sanitation Committee for the success of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

This research paper will be based on secondary source of data. Data will be collected randomly from the secondary sources like books, journals, research papers, articles different government non government website. This paper will be prepared with the help of descriptive and explanatory research design.

Index Terms: Panchayat, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), Success.

Introduction

“Uncleanliness of the mind is more dangerous than that of the body. The later, however, is an indication of the former.” This quote by Mahatma Gandhi truly summarises the importance of sanitation for mental and physical well being of an individual. Mahatma Gandhi was the first to realise the importance of sanitation. He performed scavenging work to prove that without clean and healthy surroundings, we would not develop a nation. He even took cleanliness to the level of spirituality and declared cleanliness as next to godliness.

Statement of problem

Health, hygiene and sanitation are the indicators of socio and economic development in a society. As per a United Nations factsheet, there are 2.5 billion people in the world who still do not use an 'improved' sanitation facility and a little over one billion practice open defecation. Every 20 seconds a child dies as a result of poor sanitation. A recent UNICEF report says 54 % people defecate in the open in India as against just 7 per cent each in Brazil and Bangladesh. Only 6 per cent rural children below five years in India use toilets. As per Census 2011 in India, only 32.70 % of rural households have access to toilets.

To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and enhance focus on sanitation, the Prime Minister launched the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) on October 2, 2014. He said “A clean India would be the best tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary in 2019”. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) with two sub-Missions – Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) For the Implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in lower level Gram Panchayat & Village Water and Sanitation Committee play a vital role for the hygiene & sanitation of a rural area. In this regard researcher taken this topic “Role of Gram Panchayat & Village Water and Sanitation Committee for the success of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)” to study about it in a systematic way.

Objective

The main objective of this paper is to study the Role of Gram Panchayat & Village Water and Sanitation Committee for the success of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

Research Methodology

This research paper is mainly based on secondary sources of data. Data are collected randomly from the secondary sources like books, journals, research papers, articles different government non government website. And paper is prepared with the help of descriptive and explanatory research design.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

The Government launched Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) for the achieving of universal sanitation coverage, improving cleanliness and eliminating open defecation in India by 2nd October 2019. The program is considered India's biggest drive to improve sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness in the country. Swachh Bharat Mission is not the first cleanliness program. Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for promoting sanitation through.

- Rural Sanitation Programme – 1986 to 1999
- Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) – 1999 to 2012
- TSC renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) – 2012 to 2014
- NBA restructured as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) - 2014 onwards

Restructuring of the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan(NBA) into Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)
NBA was restructured into the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) with two sub-Missions –

- a) Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)
- b) Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) main aim to improving the levels of cleanliness in rural areas through Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities and making Gram Panchayats, Open Defecation Free (ODF), clean and sanitised.

The main objectives of the SBM (G) are..

- a) Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation;
- b) Accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019;
- c) Motivate Communities and Panchayati Raj Institutions to adopt sustainable sanitation practices and facilities through awareness creation and health education;
- d) Encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation;
- e) Develop where required, Community managed sanitation systems focusing on scientific Solid & Liquid Waste Management systems for overall cleanliness in the rural areas;

For achieving the implementations of Swachh Bharat Mission (G) there have a 5-Tier implementation mechanism set up for the social mobilization and monitoring, i.e (a) National Swachh Bharat Mission (NSBM)(b).State Swachh Bharat Mission-State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) (c) District Swachh Bharat Mission (DSBM)(d)Block Programme Management Unit (BPMU) (e). Gram Panchayat/ Village Water and Sanitation Committee.

Role of Gram Panchayat

Gram Panchayats(GP) have a pivotal role in the implementation of SBM (G). States may decide to channel the fund flow for activities at the GP level through the Gram Panchayat institution.Gram Panchayatsworking within the framework have to prioritise sanitation within their programmes.

- a. The GPs will participate in the social mobilization for the triggering demand, construction of toilets and also maintenance of the clean environment by way of safe disposal of waste.
- b. Gram Panchayats can also contribute from their own resources for School Sanitation and Solid and Liquid Waste Management infrastructure
- c. The Gram Panchayats will act as the custodian of the assets such as the Community Complexes, environmental sanitation infrastructure, drainage etc. constructed under SBM(G). GPs can also open and operate the Production Centers/Rural Sanitary Marts.
- d. Gram Panchayatscan play a very important role in creating awareness and imparting hygiene education among the local population. Involvement of experienced and reputed NGOs, Village Level Motivators

(SwachhataDoots/Sanitaton Managers), and field functionaries like Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi Workers, School Teachers, and Volunteers to carry out field level actives can have a substantial impact.

- e. Gram Panchayats can play a key role in promoting regular use, maintenance and up gradation of toilets, Agencies who are in the frontline of implementation have a key role in ensuring that safety standards are being met with all components of SBM(G) e.g. the distance between water source and a latrine – adhering to the minimum distance for individual household latrine (IHHL) and Community Sanitary Complexes; regulating pit-depth, pit lining to prevent pollution, collapse of pit etc. The same will apply to key hygiene behaviour such as keeping the environment around hand pumps / water sources clear and tidy and free of human and animal excreta.
- f. Both Block level and District level PRIs must regularly monitor the implementation of the Programme. Gram Panchayats must also play a role in the monitoring of the SBM(G) programme.
- g. The Gram Panchayatsorganise and assist in organizing Social Audits of the Programme. Social audit meeting must be held in each GP once in six months. The DSBM(G) and the BPMU shall be responsible to ensure that this schedule is adhered too.
- h. The responsibility of Social audit of the programme shall be given to any specific village level body/committee/SHG etc. which shall be carried out in coordination with the GP.

Role of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)

A Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) constituted as a sub-committee of Gram Panchayat, for providing support in terms of motivation, mobilization, implementation and supervision of the programme. The VWSC play a crucial role in the comprehensive and saturation approach to ODF. The membership of a VWSC may have representation from each Ward of the GP and 6 more members. 50% of the members should be women. There should be representation from SCs and STs and poorer sections of the society. This committee should function as a Standing Committee on Water and Sanitation of the Gram Panchayat and should be an integral part of the Village Panchayat. The composition and functions of the VWSC can be determined by the State Government. The Gram Panchayats and the Village Water and Sanitation Committee endeavor to make their GPs ODF and Swachh at the earliest. States recognise and confer awards on such GPs.

Conclusion

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is the most ambitious programme on sanitation in our society. The effective implementation of the programme would translate into improved human development indicators for the country. Government should strictly do monitoring, and evaluation for the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

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